[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

(1) Bill.

THE MADRAS CITY POLICE AND GAMING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1947.

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill that has been balloted in my name, that is called the Madras City Police and Gaming (Amendment) Bill, 1947. Sir, I feel it a privilege that for the first time after the achievement of independence to move for leave to introduce the first non-official Bill in this House."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I would like to know what the attitude of the Government is with regard to this Bill."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The Government is opposing the Bill, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, it is an irony of fate that the Government who have themselves framed this Bill want to oppose this and throw it away as a forsaken child. Now, Sir, this House will remember that during the Ministry of Sri T. Prakasam a Bill was published and we were made to understand that a Bill was going to be introduced in the legislature. I was repeatedly asked by the office of the Legislature Secretariat whether in view of the fact that the Government was going to move a Bill, I would withdraw my Bill. I said, Sir, I was prepared to do so provided the Government introduced the Bill because I know, Sir, of instances where Bills were published by the Government but were not introduced in the House. Therefore, Sir, I felt a genuine apprehension and from the attitude that has been taken up now, I feel that my apprehensions have proved to be true. Sir, it may be that because of the fact, I won't say prejudice, that the previous Ministry formulated this Bill, my Hon. Friend on the other side want to oppose the Bill. (Cries of 'No,' 'No' from the Treasury Benches.)

" I am glad that I have a negative reply. I ask the Hon. the Law Minister as to how he is justified in opposing this Bill now when he has himself on the floor of the Lower House given notice of a Bill in order that this vice may be obliterated. Now, I shall read from the agenda paper of the Legislative Assembly for 21st April 1947. It is item No. 6 :

'The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan will introduce the Madras City Police and Gaming (Amendment) Bill, 1947, and move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.'

" Sir, I do not know what reasons had guided the Hon. the Law Minister and his colleagues now to say that they were opposing this Bill. I want to know why on that day Dr. Subbarayan did not move his Bill and it was shelved.

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"Now, Sir, my object in moving this Bill is this. Betting on horses has been the cause of the ruination of many a family. The Government, not only this Government, but the previous Governments also, felt that this should in some way or the other be stopped. There were bucket shops all over the country and people who were not able to go to the race course were going to the bucket shops. A Bill was brought and bucket shops were stopped. Though as a matter of fact, it is going on in some form or the other outside and every day we find police getting hold of people who are betting on horses outside, legislation was made and betting on horses outside the enclosures of the race course was penalised. Now, Sir, when this is the case, it is not understandable how a thing which is considered to be vicious and bad outside the enclosure of the race course is to be legalised by the Government and is to be taken as a good thing inside the race course. How is it that the Government have now come forward saying that what is wrong outside can be penalised but the same wrong inside the race course cannot be done so? My Bill, Sir, simply wants that betting on horses not only outside the enclosure of the race course but also inside the race course should be penalised and legislation passed to that effect. That is the only object of my Bill and my Bill wants that publication of handicaps, acceptances, the results of bettings, etc., be penalised. I say that all this should be stopped. Therefore, Sir, this Bill is only a very small one and framed for the good of the people."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I do not think that the Government members say that betting on horses is good and so you need not labour on that point so much. Let your statement be brief and let us see what the Government have to say with regard to this."

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"I shall be as brief as possible provided you allow me an opportunity of replying to the Government after they have opposed my Bill."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I can only allow you to make a statement and the Government who are opposing, to make their reply."

2-30 p.m. * ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"I submit that the people must know."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The rule is that—

'If a motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the President, after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the member who moves and from a member who opposes the motion, may, without further debate, put the question thereon'."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"I bow to your decision and I bow to the rules on the point. The matter

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is so very important; the statement that I will make, though somewhat long, will certainly be brief in relation to the importance of the matter."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" All right. I will allow the Hon. Member an opportunity to reply."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" It is a very simple matter but it is a matter which concerns the life, honour, the property and well-being of the people. I say honour is involved because many people have become paupers and I know concrete instances where people have been reduced to penury; I know people who have committed suicide on account of the loss incurred by them; I know of cases where people have died from heart failure on the very race course after having lost heavily. Therefore, it is a matter which involves the honour, the life and the property of the people. This matter, I feel, is as important as prohibition and it is as vital to society as prohibition. I will go so far as to say that it is more vital because if you allow a person to drink to his utmost, he cannot drink, say wine, for not more than a hundred rupees at a time; but if you allow a person to gamble, there is no limit to his capacity and he can gamble lakhs and millions in a second. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to put a stop to it. I do not understand how any man who has got the welfare of the people at heart can oppose such a measure. The Government may have their own reason and we have yet to know what they are and whether they are justified in opposing this measure and the public have a right to know it. In spite of all the attempts to prevent the Bill being introduced in this House, somehow or other it is a God-sent opportunity that on account of our getting independence, no sanction either of the Governor or any authority was required and we all feel thankful to you, Sir, more particularly for giving us this opportunity of introducing this measure which is so very vital and important for the welfare and well-being of this Province."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Let us hear the Government."

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" It is left to the President to allow a debate. On the former occasion, there has been a debate."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Mr. President, it is a very difficult position I find myself in with regard to this measure. Perhaps, hon. Gentlemen know that I have been connected with racing for many many years; but I may assure hon. Gentlemen that the gambling part of it never attracted me to the race-course. People who know me on the race-course know that I have not put a single pie on any horse at any time in spite of eleven years as steward and five years as senior steward of the Madras Race Club. I have got interest in racing merely as a sport and I can claim to know the technique of racing in many of its aspects. Since I resigned my office of steward people will

be surprised to learn that the betting part of it has never attracted me to the race-course but the professional part of it did. As a professional, I had to attend the race-course to see that the racing was run on proper lines and people were pulled up when the rules of the game were not observed.

"But that apart, I may assure that my hon. Friends on this side and opposite will realize that the Government are going in for a large loss in revenue on account of the introduction of Prohibition. Revenue from racing has been about Rs. 30 lakhs last year and it is an increasing source.

"Besides, if the Government felt that many people were involved in this, on moral principles alone, they would certainly have accepted Mr. Farookhi's Bill. But I have had figures worked out. The income on the race-course has increased but the number that go into the enclosure has decreased. My hon. Friend will be surprised to learn that it only involved about 6 to 7 thousand people and now that the race-club have raised the rates for entry and the unit of betting in the second enclosure, the number is bound to be less than even those that I have given. I can understand Mr. Farookhi wanting to prevent poor people from betting. We have taken action in that direction and with regard to betting outside, we are going to make stringent provisions against it. The number visiting the enclosures are on the decrease and the temptation to the poor people are being prevented.

"I would like hon. Gentlemen opposite and behind me to understand that there is such a thing as breeding horses in this country and the strain of horses has considerably improved in this country. What has been done is to import foreign stock into this land and breed our own horses. Horses are very important from the point of view of national economy and if this breeding of horses is to be kept up to a standard, racing is absolutely necessary. That is why English thorough-bred has got such a famous name all over the world. In Australia also, they have a breed which is almost approaching English thorough-bred though they cannot take their place; in Argentina and in the United States, there is also a good breed of horses. My hon. Friends opposite, especially the Muslim members—Mr. Farookhi, I am sure, counts himself as one—will realise that the home of the horses is Arabia. But the Englishman has gone one better than the Arab and the Arab horse of to-day cannot compare with the English thorough-bred. I can assure, hon. Gentlemen, that the Indian thorough-bred is nearly approaching the English thorough-bred and if breeding is continued for some more time in this country, I am sure we shall rank as one of the best countries for breeding of horses. I would, therefore, appeal to my hon. Friends opposite first in the interests of Government finance, as it does not affect many people and secondly in the interests of horse-breeding, that we should not hurry with this measure.

"If eventually Government find that the gambling instinct increases, they will have to put a stop to it as well. Does not

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Mr. Farookhi, who has introduced this Bill, realize that there is this form of gambling outside the race-course, gambling on prices, on stocks and shares and even on the stock market; this is in a way a method of gambling though this is all the rich men's luxury. I do not think Mr. Farookhi intends to help the rich man out of the bad habit.

"There is this problem as well and that is that this problem has to be tackled as an all-India problem. For instance, racing has been continued by the Congress Government in Bombay; the Governor of Bengal, our honoured leader, Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, has lately given a grant for a cup on the Calcutta race course. (Mr. Abdul Latif Farookhi: Following the English model). You find, therefore, it is to be continued in Calcutta as well and what will happen if you put it down in this province by this Bill? Racing will flourish in Bangalore and horses that come to Madras will be diverted to Colombo; the Government would have lost its revenue, people would have lost a chance of seeing the king of sports and the result will still be that it will go on in other centres and we will stay where we are. I also wish to state that we are going to bring in one Bill and we shall therein provide at what time the measure will come into operation."

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"I am glad, Mr. President, to hear the arguments of the Hon. the Law Minister, but I am afraid that they have not been convincing; they will not be convincing to the people outside also.

"I was about to say at the very beginning that as a steward of the race course, he possesses a much larger experience than most of us. When people like me who form their opinion from experience of people like the Hon. Law Minister and say that it is a very bad thing, he must be more opposed to this betting. If the rumour is correct, I am told that he was not made the steward this time because he was fighting for the right cause, and fought for the people who were on the right. On the race course, you will excuse my saying so, it is something like a day-light robbery. The number of people who bet is large; but there are a few interested people and they are the people who have the final say and they decide whether a particular horse wins or loses. If their interests are at stake and if they are going to lose heavily on account of a particular horse being declared a winner, the red ball is put up and most of the others who thought that that particular horse won, find that the horse which they thought had won is not the horse that had actually won."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"On a point of information, I must protest against this kind of statement because as I said I have been on the race course and I can say that the stewards apply their minds properly to questions like this and I can assure him that nothing like what he has described ever has happened."

*ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"That is why I was saying that gentlemen like the Hon. the Law

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Minister must be there to prevent such things. I really thought that it would be a better evil but those people thought that it is better to avoid such gentlemen. That is the rumour and I do not know how far it is correct.

"The Hon. the Law Minister stated that the revenue to the State on betting was about 30 lakhs. But I find from the information I received through a question that the figure is something in the neighbourhood of 16 lakhs. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi : '23 lakhs and the final accounts for the previous year is 18 lakhs'.) Even if it be 23 lakhs; for the good of the people, 3.45 p.m. there will be no harm in foregoing it. As a matter of fact, this tax on betting was not provided for in the budget for last year. Government did not take account of that revenue. Therefore, you say that there can be no regret for losing that revenue. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi : 'We have taken two more districts for Prohibition'.) The Hon. the Law Minister has said what will happen if racing is stopped here. Will racing be stopped in Bangalore and other places? May I put the same question to hon. Members opposite? What will happen if Prohibition is introduced in all the districts in Madras Presidency but drinking is allowed in other parts, which they cannot prevent. If drinking is allowed in Mysore, in Hyderabad and other Native States, and Prohibition is introduced only in Madras Presidency, what will happen? Will not people drink? Are the Government going to give up Prohibition on that account? Therefore, Sir, that argument cannot hold water. With regard to the question of breeding of horses, I think that is an exploded argument. I have read many articles about breeding of horses and if you really want to have breeding of horses why should there be betting? You can encourage breeding of horses and you can encourage the people who breed horses. You can produce the best of horses, but why introduce at the same time the element of gambling on that? If you are going to breed horses only on the assumption that it can flourish on account of betting on horses, then you should allow betting in other places also. Bucket shops also should not be excluded but allowed to function.

"Then, Sir, my Hon. Friend Dr. Subbarayan said that there was gambling on shares. I do not know whether this Government is going to allow that gamble and whether they are not going to prevent it. My information is that they are trying to see that gambling on shares is prevented by Government. But even if the Government do not try to prevent it, may I know, Sir, whether one wrong can justify another? That is a wrong that is going on. That is a vice. Because of that vice are you going to allow another vice? If you are not going to allow that vice why should you allow this vice? I believe that people who go to the share market are very rich people. But, Sir, the people who go to race course or people who bet on horses are very poor people. I cannot describe the condition of people who go to the race course. My Hon. Friend Dr. Subbarayan has said that they are going to raise the

ticket money so as to prevent people from entering the race course. I know, as one who has gone to the race course once or twice, what the position is. I gave notice of this Bill, because I know that, people are sitting outside the race course enclosure . . . (Dr. Tajuddin : 'Do you bet? ') • I do not know, Sir, whether an answer could be given to that question or not. But I think that if I had done a particular wrong, it is not necessary that I should continue that vice again."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You can become wiser! "

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" It is better to reform oneself even when one is wrong. (Interruption.) Therefore, Sir, there is reformation, and I want my hon. Friends on the opposite who are very anxious to allow people to gamble and to allow people to continue this vice to reform themselves in order that they may not allow people to do it again.

" Then, Sir, they want money for Prohibition to be introduced in two more districts. I do not know whether this 30 lakhs of rupees will compensate the loss of revenue which will occur on account of introducing Prohibition in two districts. Even then I submit that they can resort to other means of getting revenue. There are a number of things which the Government want to do and which the Government can do. If they can find money for introducing Prohibition in 16 districts, I do not think it will be difficult for them to get money for introducing Prohibition in two more districts. The Government, as a matter of fact, have to introduce Prohibition in all the districts of the Province. If they are going to introduce Prohibition throughout the Province, I do not know from where they are going to get money if they depended only on this income, namely, this revenue which they could get from betting on horses. I want to tell the House one thing to which my Hon. Friend has referred. He says that this must be treated as an all-India question. My Hon. Friend does not know the opinion of a very great man to whom we all paid our homage but yesterday, namely, Mahatma Gandhi. Let me tell my Hon. Friend Dr. Subbarayan, that Mahatma Gandhi is opposed to betting on horses. I have read an article written by Mahatma Gandhi about this matter. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi : 'On share market also! ') Yes; I am not saying that you should continue gambling in share market. (K. T. M. Ahamad Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur : 'Hear, hear '.) If we are to follow the precepts of great men, we must act up to their teachings. If you are not following their precepts then you cannot be called their true disciples (hear, hear). In Calcutta they are going to prevent it. In Karachi, the Karachi Corporation passed a resolution asking the Government, not the Pakistan Government, mind you, but the Sind Government . . . (Interruption.) You may laugh, but it was in 1940 that the resolution was passed by the Karachi Corporation asking the Government of Sind . . . (Interruption) "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. In spite of passing the resolution, though the League Government had been in power since 1940, the Karachi races flourish."

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, this is an argument which I have always opposed. Whether the League Government does it or not . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not know whether the Hon. Minister wants the debate to flourish." (Laughter.)

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I submit to the Hon. Law Minister and other members on the opposite side that you cannot quote instances from the League Government, because you are not the upholders of that Government. You do not appreciate that Government. Therefore, if that Government do not do anything, do you mean to say that the Congress Government also should follow their example? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am sorry, Sir. On a point of personal explanation, I may say that there is no question of not appreciating any Government. We do not appreciate all Governments."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Because the Hon. Law Minister said that in spite of the fact that the League is in power there it has not stopped racing and betting on horses, I gave that reply. There can be no analogy between that Government and this Government. Prohibition has not been introduced in Karachi. Even before the advent of independence, in Provinces where the League was in a majority and where League Governments were functioning, there was no prohibition. You did not take this as an example from them and you did not say that because the League Governments did not introduce prohibition you also did not like to introduce prohibition. You said ' We are the torch bearers of civilization; we want to eliminate evil. Therefore, you should not take shelter under the fact that a particular Government did not do a particular thing. I want this Government to-day to take the initiative to stop this evil of betting on horses and show to other Governments, whether they be League or Congress Governments, that a Province like Madras, which has been giving a very great lead in other matters, can give a lead in this matter also. I would ask the Hon. Law Minister and other Ministers to reconsider their decision.

" One thing more, Sir, and I shall finish. Why was it that the Hon. Law Minister has not answered the point. He has simply evaded it. Why was it that he gave notice of a motion, in last April. for leave to introduce in the Legislative Assembly a Bill for stopping this betting on horses, and why was it that there has been this

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silence on his part and on the part of his Government till this time? How is it that even after somebody introduced this Bill, they are opposing it?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You say people can become wiser!"

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I want to know from the Hon. the Law Minister whether he has become wiser. If he has become wiser then good-bye to all wisdom. (Laughter.) I do not want to say much about this, Sir. I would appeal to hon. Members on the other side (not the Hon. Ministers) to search their hearts and find out whether they are doing any good service by following the lead that the Hon. the Law Member has given to them. I think, Sir, on a matter like this, there should not be party considerations. In a matter like this, which is based upon morality, which is based upon the lives of the people, the honour of the people and the wealth of the people, party considerations should not prevail. I do not want to give a description of these poor people. Their families are ruined. I know of poor people taking away the jewels of their wives, taking even the clothes of their wives, mortgaging them, and then losing the money in the race course, making the family suffer and starve. In matters like this members should be allowed to use their discretion and should not be fettered by any party discipline. I feel this is in the interests of the people of this Province. It is not a question of any community. There is no question of class. There is no question of rich people or poor people. It is a question touching all the people of this Province put together. Are we not to help these people in these days of famine, and in these days when money market has become so very tight, and when people cannot get food to eat? I feel, Sir, that a Government which allow these poor people to continue this vice and crime have no right to rule over a poor Province like Madras. Sir, I thank you."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is that Mr. Abdul Latif Farookhi Sahib be given leave to introduce the Madras City Police and Gaming (Amendment Bill), 1947."

The motion was declared lost.

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I want a poll, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You challenge?"

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Yes, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You do not like a challenger."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I do challenge, Sir." 4 p.m

A poll was taken and the House divided thus :—

Ayes.

1 K. Uppi Sahib Bahadur.
2 K. T. M. Ahamed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur.
3 Abdul Latif Farookhi Sahib Bahadur.
4 Dr. Syed Tajuddin Sahib.
5 Sri M. D. T. Kumaraswami Mudaliyar.
6 Mrs. M. Hensman.
7 Mrs. M. N. Clubwala.
8 Hamid Sultan Maricair Sahib Bahadur.
9 S. K. Shaik Rowther Sahib Bahadur.
10 Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao.
11 Dr. V. K. John.

Noes.

1 The Hon. Sri O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiyar.
2 The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan.
3 The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon.
4 Sri K. Venkataswami Nayudu.
5 ,, P. Veerabhadraswami.
6 ,, Bhima Rao.
7 ,, L. Subbarama Reddi.
8 ,, S. A. S. R. M. Ramanathan Chettiyar.
9 ,, M. Narayana Menon.
10 ,, M. Narayana Rao.
11 Sri N. Sankara Reddi.
12 ,, N. Venkatachalamaji.
13 ,, M. Sudarsanam.
14 ,, A. Govindacharyulu.
15 ,, C. Perumalswami Reddiyar.
16 ,, B. Veeraswami.
17 ,, N. Ranga Reddi.
18 Mr. J. L. P. Roche Victoria.
19 Sri G. Venkata Reddi.
20 ,, P. R. K. Sarma.
21 ,, A. R. L. Pathy.
22 Mr. A. S. T. F. Rodrigues.

Neutral.

1 Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar.
2 Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu.
3 Sri A. Gopalakrishnayya.
4 ,, D. Krishnamurthy.

***Ayes* 11 ; *Noes* 22 ; *Neutral* 4.**

The motion was lost.

(2) Resolutions.

(i) FORMATION OF A WELFARE DIRECTORATE OR DEPARTMENT IN CHARGE OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

* MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am greatly obliged for allowing me to move the following resolution standing in my name :—

> ' *This Council recommends to the Government to form at an early date a Welfare Directorate or Department under either a woman Minister or a woman Director, to be in charge of all social welfare work in the Province.*'

My subject falls into two groups—one the directorate and secondly the appointment of a woman Minister. I am voicing the opinion of the majority of women in our Province when I say we are sorely disappointed that this Government has not appointed a woman Minister. India's struggle for freedom could never have been achieved if our womenfolk had not fought and sacrificed along with their men and if they had not influenced them and led their menfolk to leave their home and hearth to fight the battle for freedom. Many are the unsung heroines, for, in India, a woman holds a place of great honour. In our Province we have many examples of women filling positions with trust and ability. May I ask why, when we have a woman Ambassadar, a Governor, a Dominion Minister, and Constituent Assembly Members, there is no woman Minister in our